



*p* 517-346-6300

*p* 800-968-1442

*f* 517-482-6248

[www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)

306 Townsend Street

Michael Franck Building

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

To: Sen. Rick Jones, Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, Majority Vice Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Steven M. Bieda, Minority Committee Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Tory Rocca, Member, Senate Judiciary

From: Peter Cunningham, Director of Governmental Relations

Date: December 2, 2014

Re: SB 1141 Criminal Justice Policy Commission  
Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing

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The State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners was unable to consider SB 1141 at their meeting on November 22 due to a constraint in Supreme Court Administrative Order 2004-1 that prohibits the State Bar from taking positions on bills less than two weeks from introduction. (SB 1141 was introduced on November 12.)

However, at the November 22 meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted to support the creation of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission in HB 5829, the identical House-version of SB 1141. Specifically, the State Bar supports the creation of the commission in regard to the commission's ability to collect and analyze data regarding the effect of sentencing guidelines on the caseload, docket flow, and case backlog of the state's trial and appellate courts.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact me directly at your convenience.